

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for secure distribution of digital healthcare data using an offsite internet file server, comprising the steps of:

- a) creating a digital medical data file representative of an analog or digital medical study produced by a diagnostic healthcare device;
- b) transmitting said digital medical data file to a local client machine communicatively coupled to said diagnostic healthcare device and the internet;
- c) transmitting said digital medical data file over the internet from said local client machine to a remote internet file server communicatively coupled to the internet in response to a command signal from said local client machine;
- d) storing said digital medical data file on a server storage data device on said remote internet file server; and
- e) transmitting said digital medical data file over the internet from said remote internet file server to a remote client machine communicatively coupled to the internet in response to a command signal from said remote client machine.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of said local client machine encrypting said digital medical data file prior to transmission over the internet.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein a communications link between said local client machine and said remote internet file server uses a uniform resource locator or internet protocol number.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting said digital medical data file over the internet is performed if the transfer command to said remote internet file server includes information confirming user access privileges.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting said digital medical data file over the internet is performed using a communications protocol providing authentication of said local client machine or said remote internet file server.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting said digital medical data file over the internet is performed using a communications protocol providing in-transit encryption of said digital medical data file to said remote internet file server.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said remote internet file server further comprises:

- a) a web server that generates a web page wherein said web page provides a set of user interface functions related to file transmission, display and maintenance;
- b) first means for said local internet file server for receiving said digital medical data files from said remote client machine over the internet;
- c) second means for said remote internet file server for transmitting said digital medical data files from said remote internet file server to said remote client machine.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said first means further comprises:

- a) transmitting client file uploading code from said remote internet file server to said local client machine if said client file uploading code does not exist on said local client machine;
- b) executing said client file uploading code on local client machine to establish a communications channel between said local client machine and remote internet file server;
- c) executing remote internet file server file uploading code to provide for acceptance of file upload from said local client machine to said remote internet file server;

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said second means further comprises:

- d) transmitting client file downloading code from said remote internet file server to said remote client machine if said client file downloading code does not exist on said remote client machine;
- e) executing said client file downloading code on remote client machine to establish a communications channel between said remote client machine and remote internet file server;
- f) executing remote internet file server file downloading code to provide for acceptance of file download from said remote internet file server to said remote client machine;

10. The healthcare device of claim 1, wherein the medical information comprises a set of measurement data generated by the device-specific hardware of the healthcare device.

11. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the medical information further comprises a patient identifier corresponding to the measurement data.

12. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the medical information further comprises a time-stamp corresponding to the measurement data.

13. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of computed tomographic imaging data.

14. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of magnetic resonance imaging data.

15. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of ultrasound data.

16. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of radiography data.

17. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of fluoroscopy data.

18. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of angiography data.

19. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of nuclear medicine data.

20. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of blood pressure data.

21. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of pathology data.

22. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of blood analysis data.

23. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of electrocardiogram recorder data.

24. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of lung efficiency data.

25. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of blood glucose data.

26. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of blood alcohol data.

27. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of fecal blood data.

28. The healthcare device of claim 10, wherein the measurement data comprises a set of body weight data.

29. The digital medical data file of claim 1, wherein the data comprises a set of digitized patient clinical records.